

## Online Appendix A: Example stimuli

### *Study 1: Counter-immigration news and rebuttal offered in fact checker*

> Politics

Because of the Democrats' failing immigration policy, the number of crimes committed by illegal aliens continues to increase

Published: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 12:01 PM  
Last update: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 9:35 AM



By: THE EDITORIAL BOARD

**Illegal aliens coming to the U.S. are responsible for major increases in immigration-related crime rates. Recent studies into the development of the U.S. crime rate show that immigrants are increasingly involved in violent acts targeted at American citizens. Prospects show that this crime rate will go up by another 10 percent in the next 5 years.**

This increase in immigrant-initiated crime rate is caused by the Democrat's failing immigration policies. To provide a few examples, weak border controls and a lack of strong law enforcement keep on threatening our country.

To counter this development, action is needed. First of all, we need a tougher border control, for example by employing more rangers and sending the National Guard to the border. Next to this, we need to build a large fence along our border to prevent the influx of more migrants. Another solution is a further enhanced punishment for illegal entry and reentry.

### **POLITI ✓ CHECK**

Fact check: "Because of the Democrats' failing immigration policy, the number of crimes committed by illegal aliens continues to increase"

Published: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 14:01 PM  
Last update: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 11:35 AM



By: THE EDITORIAL BOARD

**The article makes several claims regarding the link between increased crime rate and immigration. The article begins by saying that immigrants are responsible for major increases in crimes. This claim is found to be false. More than ten independent studies that linked various crimes to immigration unanimously indicated that less than 4% of all crimes is actually caused by illegal immigrants.**

The article also claims that the crime rate caused by immigrants will increase by another 10% in the next 5 years. This is also false. Again, several studies, as well as independent prospects founded in census information and crime models, show that this crime rate will most likely decrease by 10% in the next 5 years.

Based on the inaccurate claims made in the article, the foregrounded solutions cannot be judged as accurate.

Bottom Line: This article is MOSTLY FALSE.

### *Study 2: Pro-climate change news and rebuttal offered in fact checker*

> Politics

The Republicans do not spend enough money on climate change policies, leaving our most important problem unsolved

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By: THE EDITORIAL BOARD

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**The Republicans spend too little money to successfully fight climate change, while there is overwhelming evidence that the available measures to fight global warming are effective. Since the Republicans' intended policies regarding the withdrawal of climate change budgets are not grounded in firm scientific evidence, it is detrimental to spend so little on the fight against climate change.**

Recent studies and climate models have all demonstrated that the intended policies to target climate change, such as reducing emission and relying on more green energy sources, can actually make a significant change in the fight against global warming. Still, the Republicans continue to claim that all budget spend on climate change is a waste of money. Since the Republicans' failing policy drains our budget, important issues, such as the rising sea level, remain unsolved.

To counter this development, action is needed. First of all, we need to immediately stop the Republicans' budget cuts. Next, our tax money needs to be reallocated to ensure that our people will be protected against the severe consequences of climate change.

## POLITI CHECK

Fact check: "The Republicans do not spend enough money on climate change policies, leaving our most important problem unsolved"

Published: June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 14:01 PM  
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By: THE EDITORIAL BOARD

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**The article makes several claims. The article begins by saying that the Republicans do not spend enough money on climate change policies. This claim is found to be false. More than twenty independent studies that linked governmental spending on climate change to the costs of not taking action unanimously indicated that the Republicans are actually spending a relatively high amount of money.**

The article also claims that there is overwhelming evidence that the available measures to fight global warming are effective. This is also found to be false. More than 800 verified studies, as well as 92% of all independent climate models, show that the available solutions (such as green energy) do not make a significant difference in countering climate change.

Based on the inaccurate claims made in the article, the foregrounded solutions cannot be judged as accurate.

Bottom Line: This article is MOSTLY FALSE.

## Appendix B: Measures issue agreement in Study 1 and Study 2

(all items measured on 1 (completely disagree) to 7 (completely agree) scales)

### Study 1

Immigrants coming to the U.S are responsible for major increases in crime rate

Immigrants are increasingly involved in crimes targeted at U.S. citizens

Increases in crime rates are caused by the Democrat's failing immigration policies

Our country's border controls are too weak

Our country's law enforcement is too weak

There have been major increases in crime rates targeted at people with a different cultural, economic or religious background

The well-being of immigrants coming to the U.S. is threatened severely

Increases in crimes against immigrants are caused by the Republicans' failing immigration policies

Our country's policies toward the integration of immigrants are too weak

Our country has a lack of strong discrimination prevention schemes

### Study 2

Democrats spend too much money on climate change

The measures proposed by the Democrats are not effective in fighting global warming

The Democrats' failing climate change policy drains our budget

The Democrats' intended policies regarding climate change are not grounded in firm scientific evidence

The Republicans spend too little money to successfully fight climate change

There is overwhelming evidence that the available measures to fight global warming are effective

It is detrimental to spend less money on the fight against climate change

Reducing emission and relying on more green energy sources can actually make a significant change in the fight against global warming

The Republicans' failing policy drains our climate change budget